

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
BUTTE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL JAMES MERZLAK,

Defendant.

CR 24–19–BU–DLC

ORDER

Before the Court is the United States’ Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Order of Forfeiture. (Doc. 106.) Defendant Michael James Merzlak entered into a plea agreement that provides a factual basis and cause to issue an order of forfeiture, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. §§ 853(a)(1) and (2) and 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(11).

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED the motion (Doc. 106) is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Merzlak’s interest in the following property is forfeited to the United States in accordance with 21 U.S.C. §§ 853(a)(1) and (2), 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(11).:

- F.LLI Pietta, Fabrica D’Armi 1873 SA revolver, Cal. 45, SN E131556, and any associated accessories and ammunition.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives and/or a designated sub-custodian is directed to seize the property

subject to forfeiture and further to make a return as provided by law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the United States will provide written notice to all third parties asserting a legal interest in any of the above-described property and will post on an official government internet site ([www.forfeiture.gov](http://www.forfeiture.gov)) for at least 30 consecutive days as required by Rule G(4)(a)(iv)(C) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, notice of the Court's Preliminary Order and the United States' intent to dispose of the property in such manner as the Attorney General of the United States may direct, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1), and to make its return to this Court that such action has been completed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon adjudication of all third-party interests, if any, the Court will enter a final order of forfeiture, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(7) and Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(2), in which all interests will be addressed.

DATED this 17th day of January, 2025.

  
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Dana L. Christensen, District Judge  
United States District Court